GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:878
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TEXTILE SECTOR
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to concentrate more on research and development activities in textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) the details of the textile units/centres/institutes engaged in advanced research and development activities, State and union Territory-wise; and

(d) the assistance being provided/proposed to be provided by the Government to these units/centres/institutes, State and Union Territory-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (d): Innovation is the keyword for survival. Continuous innovation in technology, machinery, product or process is necessary to the industry to exploit fully the opportunities available in the world market. Also, industrial research is viewed today as a commercial operation to be justified solely by the usefulness of the results to the industry. Therefore, the Government fosters a policy regime which lays emphasis on supporting innovation, investment in research and development, support to generic research programmes of Textile Research Associations (TRAs) and encourage the industry to support the TRAs in order to cater to their technological needs. There are eight TRAs in the country as follows:-

1. Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association(ATIRA), Ahmedabad(Gujarat)

2. Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA), Mumbai(Maharashtra).

3. South India Textile Research Association (SITRA) Coimbatore(Tamilnadu)

4. Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad(Uttar Pradesh).

5. Man-made Textile Research Association (MANTRA), Surat(Gujarat).

6. Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai(Maharashtra).

7. Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA), Kolkata(West Bengal).

8. Wool Research Association (WRA), Thane(Mumbai)

ATIRA, BTRA, SITRA and NITRA carry out consultancy, testing, training and Research and development in cotton and cotton/synthetic as well as cotton/natural fibre blends. MANTRA, SASMIRA work predominantly in synthetics. WRA and IJIRA carry out work in wool and jute respectively. The TRAs are industry promoted bodies and have been established during different periods. Government has been providing financial support to these TRAs, ever since their formation, in two shapesâ€”
(i) to meet their recurring expenditure for sustenance and
(ii) for project related grants to undertake R&D projects. R&D projects are sanctioned by a Committee chaired by Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor. Government also provides separate grant for any consultancy work assigned to these TRAs. Government does not provide assistance to any other textile unit/centre/ institute.